

Remarks/Argument

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indicated allowability of dependent claims 3 and 8.

35 U.S.C. ¶102

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶102 as being anticipated by Ikebe (US 6094326) for the reasons stated at pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 includes the following limitation:

“wherein the casing body has a first guide groove which extends in a direction in which the shutter is opened and closed, and which is formed on a front edge side of one of surfaces of the casing body;” (claim 1, lines 9-13).

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the first guide groove 60, into which the first and second engagement portions 32, 33 of the first slider 3 are engaged, is formed on a front edge side of the casing body 2, and thus is exposed to the outside of the casing body 2.

Further, as is apparent from the last two paragraphs of claim 1, the cutout portion is formed by cutting out the front edge wall, and the first slider and the shutter can be mounted on the casing body by inserting the first engagement portion and the second engagement portion of the first slider into the first guide groove through the cutout portion. Again referring to the drawings, a cutout

portion 8 is formed on the front edge all (or front end wall) 15, and through this cutout portion 8, the first engagement portion 32 and the second engagement portion 33 of the first slider 3 can be inserted into the first guide groove 60 (which is exposed to the outside), so that the first slider 3 can be mounted on the casing body.

In contrast, in all three disclosed embodiments of Ikebe, the slider is sandwiched between two half shells (or upper and lower casing members). That is, the guide groove, into which the slider is engaged, is formed inside the casing, whereas the presently claimed invention recites the first guide groove as being formed on a front edge side of the casing body, and thus is exposed to the outside of the casing body.

It should be noted that the present invention offers the advantage of ease of assembly when compared to the embodiment of Ikebe. That is, when assembling the disk cartridge of the present invention, firstly the two half shells are assembled (sub-assembly), and thereafter the first slider can be mounted on the sub-assembly through the cutout portion of the front edge wall (which constitutes one side wall of the first guide groove). In contrast, according to Ikebe, the two half shells must be assembled while sandwiching the slider therebetween. This may be troublesome in view of the many other parts also existing inside the casing.

Claim 6

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 6 is not anticipated by Ikebe for the same reasons as stated above in connection with claims 1. It is noted that claim 6 differs from claim 1 in that the shutter 6' in claim 6 is an integral one-piece member, whereas the shutter 6 in claim 1 is made of a first slider 3 and a shutter plate 5 (refer to Figs. 1 to 3).

Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9 and 10

Applicants respectfully contend that claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9 and 10 are not anticipated by Ikebe for the same reasons as stated above in connection with claims 1 and 6.

Conclusion

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims 1-10 now pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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